



DAILY EVENING BULLETIN.



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How to Learn Farming.

It is impossible to learn farming in a few easy lessons. Years of practical experience are required, and though such a teacher may be the dearest, yet it is unquestionably the best. There are at all times in this country many individuals who fancy that they would like farming, and are anxious to learn its best methods. Unfortunately, few of these are young men, and fewer still are willing to commence at the beginning and plod upward, as one must in so prosaic a business as farming. Most of these persons have high notions of the improvements they can make in the common farm methods. All these facts tell against the probability of success. It was, we believe, one of the best of Dickens' characters, good, honest Joe Gargery, who advised P. P. that the way to be one an uncommon scholar was first to make one's self a good common scholar. There is sound philosophy in this advice, and it is especially applicable to farming. Not to underrate the good work done by amateurs and fancy farmers, it is still certain that most of the great improvements in farming methods have been introduced by the born and bred on the farm and dependent on it for their livelihood and success. John Johnston, who introduced tile-draining in this country, is, perhaps, the best example of this type of farmers. If he had been a man of wealth taking up under-draining as a favorite hobby upon which to spend his surplus money, he would have had few followers. Being a poor man, heavily in debt for his farm, and paying for it by the judicious and liberal use of money in tiles and sheep, his example proved contagious. The great majority of enterprising American farmers were in his condition, hence, that which was good for him was presumably good for them also.

Probably the best method of becoming a good farmer, for one who has had no practical experience, is to serve an apprenticeship, working with and for the best farmer in the vicinity, and studying his methods. Of course few or no wealthy men will do this, though so distinguished a personage as Peter the Great, of Russia, worked for years as an apprentice at ship-building, until he had thoroughly mastered the art. But successful farming is much more complex than any trade, and demands more constant thought than most branches of professional life, together with executive ability equal to the management of any business. Is it to be wondered at that success rarely crowns the efforts of those who begin farming after middle age and with little knowledge of its details.

It must be remembered that farming is now, in most localities, a much more complicated art than it was thirty to fifty years ago. Knowledge gained then will not avail now. In some sections the substitution of mixed husbandry in place of one or two staples has driven from their farms the original occupants, who could not, or would not, learn the new methods. It is no longer possible anywhere to farm in the old ways, as was done by nearly everybody when the country was new and the successive crops of wheat, cotton, or tobacco were the sole rotation until the soil became too poor to produce a crop. There are few localities now where some effort is not required to restore, or at least to maintain, fertility. Such efforts require thought and investigation.

It is, of course, quite unprofessional for an agricultural writer to depreciate the value of what is called "book-farming." But such teaching certainly needs to be taken with due consideration and caution. It requires a good practical and thoughtful farmer to get the most benefit from agricultural books and newspapers. There is not a periodical in the country that will not be worth many times its cost, by its practical hints and suggestions, to the thoughtful mind. On the other hand there is none, however carefully edited, that will not result in heavy losses if its advice is implicitly followed without due regard to varying conditions. There is, in fact, no method adapted to all times, all localities and all circumstances. The main office of the agricultural paper is to incite thought, to prompt action and to stimulate investigation.

It may be added, however, that there is no young, able-bodied man, of fair natural shrewdness, who may not hope to become a successful land-holder and farmer in almost any section of this country, if he sets himself to work with that end in view. It is not necessary to go West, as Horace Greeley advised, though undoubtedly that section has its advantages, yet, dear as land is in some of the Eastern States, there is no place where judicious management with certain crops will not pay for an acre in a single year with the crop grown therefrom. This is emphatically true of market gardeners in and around large cities. It is not for tyros, but for men

who thoroughly understand their business, that such successes come. Many of the successful cultivators of the soil began in poverty and worked their way to financial prosperity. While it is true that rose-colored views of the farmer's life may lead to sad failures, yet opposite views which exhibit success to farming as attainable only by those already in possession of accumulated wealth are scarcely less deplorable.—*Boston Cultivator.*

Diseases of Fruits.

Diseases of fruits, like those of animals, may be classed as contagious, infectious and transmissible. I believe it is through the latter class that most of the fatal fruit diseases have been introduced. If this be true, is it not in the power of human agencies to prevent them? If so, how is this to be done? By the selection and planting of healthy seed. Are we doing so? Are not many of us aiding in the introduction and spread of diseases by planting the seed of diseased fruits? Let us see if this is true. There is a mania with most people to new things. New fruit comes for a share, and they are said to ripen early, they are sought after everywhere. This eagerness to obtain new and earlier ripening fruits induces persons, desirous of making money, to devote their attention to producing them. It is a well-known fact, that the diseased specimens of fruit ripen first (they ripen at all). These first ripening specimens are selected for planting, and, by repeating the operation a few times, extra early ripening fruit may be obtained, but often so diseased as to be entirely worthless. Unfortunately, because of their early maturity, trees of such are propagated. Showy pictures are made of the fruit, which is given some pleasing name, and the trees are sold at exorbitant prices. The idea of obtaining peaches that will ripen in this latitude by the fourth day of July "takes," and the trees of such are quickly bought and planted. In due time the owner is rewarded with a crop of rotten peaches; if not rotten, it is tough, dry specimens, not fit to put in a person's mouth. Nature has its laws of production. Any violation of those laws must produce in error or articles. I do not wish to be understood as charging all fruit-producers and tree-propagators with selling worthless varieties. I know gentlemen engaged in the business, who, after discovering a variety to be worthless, would dig up the trees and destroy them. Such men are an honor to their profession.

Fruit diseases may be spread by inoculation—budding and grafting, or when pruning. The bacteria, or fungus matter from the diseased tree, may be carried on the saw or knife to the healthy ones, and in this way all the trees of the orchard become diseased. When trees are affected by diseases that are transmissible, either in the seed or by inoculation, the only safe method is to dig them out and burn them, roots and branches. About twenty-five years ago, I discovered a peach tree in my orchard affected by the Yellows. I commenced digging about the roots, and pruning the branches of the tree, with the hope of getting rid of the disease. My labor proved ineffectual, and in a few years every peach tree in the orchard became diseased. I had probably carried fungus on the saw to the healthy trees when pruning. Determining to prevent a further spread of the disease, every tree in the orchard was taken up by the roots and burned, and the land cultivated for a number of years. Every sprout or tree coming upon the land was dug out and burned. About ten years ago the land was again planted with sound, healthy peach trees. They grew rapidly, and no sign of Yellows has made its appearance on the trees. I state this circumstance to show what may be accomplished.

The spread of diseases of fruits resulting from insect depredations and other causes might be checked, if not eradicated. A little attention, on the part of all fruit-growers, in this direction, would accomplish very beneficial results. As long as men see the fruits rotting on their trees, or on the ground beneath them, producing contagion, without removing it; as long as men behold the insects destroying both fruit and foliage, and make no effort to destroy them; as long as fruit growers continue this indifference about their fruits and fruit trees, so long will the deterioration of fruits go on. Perhaps nothing short of legislation can bring about the necessary change for their restoration.—*From Essay read before the Ohio Horticultural Society.*

A Missouri sheep-grower advises breeding from polled rams. The animals, he says, fight less, are never fly-blown around the horns, are more conveniently sheared, keep easier and grow larger. This is his opinion, after nine years' experience.—*St. Louis Globe.*

A Plea for Our Servants.

We all know how glad they are to rush out on every possible occasion; are dissatisfied if they do not get their Sundays out, even when wet—their evenings with their friends; and, if not allowed to go out, too often take French leave and walk out as soon as their master and mistress's back is turned. Of course this is very wrong, and such conduct can not be too strongly condemned; but we are inclined to think that we do not go the right way to work to prevent their acting in this sort of manner. How few mistresses take the slightest interest in their servants' welfare, their joys or pleasures! If only they do their work properly, that is all they care about. But ought they to feel in this way with regard to the inmates of their houses? We think not; but, on the contrary, as far as possible, mistresses should endeavor to procure innocent and rational recreation for all their dependents, whether children, governess or servants. The old proverb about "all work and no play making Jack a dull boy" holds good with young and old. Men who slave in their counting-houses or their offices from morning until night without a due proportion of rest, become in time not only dull, but ill. Children who have not a reasonable amount of healthy exercise and merry games are sure to mope, and probably will get into mischief; and it is the same with servants. If they have not a sufficient amount of recreation, either their health flags or they too get into mischief—and mischief of a much more serious kind. It will be seen, therefore, that, even from a selfish point of view, it would be well to take some little interest in those around us; and if we only consider the unhealthy kitchens and underground premises in which servants for the most part live, and the dreary attics in which they sleep, it will be seen how very necessary it must be to give them opportunities of obtaining fresh air and exercise, if their bodies and minds are to be kept in a proper state of health.

In the skating season how much they would enjoy being spared for an hour or two to go and see the sliding and skating, or for a brisk walk in the parks; and in the Summer pleasant walks and expeditions ought occasionally to be organized for them, and this could generally be done in most establishments, with a little forethought on the mistress's part, without deranging the family comfort—for instance, on days when the master and mistress are dining out, or when, from some cause or other, there is not so much work as usual to be done in the house. And all this need not entail much expense; there are exhibitions costing a trifle to see; and a visit now and then to a picture gallery, a museum, or even a concert, would make a pleasant change from the daily routine of cooking, sweeping, and cleaning—or, in case of nurses, of washing, dressing, and minding children—and might help to elevate and educate a class of people which sadly needs encouragement in every way to prevent their falling into bad and disreputable ways.

Small social tea parties could be arranged without much trouble or expense, and to these brothers and sisters of the servants might be invited, and the evenings made cheerful with games, picture books, illustrated papers, and the like. How much better would this be than altogether ignoring that servants have friends and relations, and so driving them to courses of deceit and to underhanded proceedings, such as making signs to attract their friends as soon as their masters and mistresses are out; sending letters to their friends as soon as the mistress has given her orders for the day, on finding no late dinner is required; slipping off when there seems no chance of their absence being observed; and other practices which gradually lead giddy girls from bad to worse, and from one little deceit to some great fraud.

Almost all servants in the present day can read and write, and bright, wholesome stories, light books of travel and adventures, and biographical sketches would be much appreciated by them and would tend to while away a Sunday at home, and induce a servant to stay at home, even when it is their day out, should it be wet or unsuitable for her to go out. Such books also might prevent the entrance into private houses of newspapers and publications which would be far better burnt than read by any one, and which no modest, well-principled girls should ever be allowed to set eyes upon. We must expect many a disappointment, yet on the whole they will be found grateful for the kindly thought shown them; and such considerations for their happiness will often bring their own reward, by inducing servants to give their services less grudgingly and with a more cheerful countenance.—*Rural New Yorker.*